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# Reading Matters!!!

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## Vocabulary Instruction

Which words should be taught directly??

Research advises purposeful teaching of well- selected words instead of teaching long lists of words with matching definitions.

- \*Choose words that are critical in understanding the text and likely to be found in other texts the students will encounter.

- \*Choose words for which the students have a concept and know another, more common word with which to define the chosen word.

- \*Focus on 6-8 words per reading selection.

Isabel Beck describes 3 Tiers or word categories that words can be placed in...

Tier 1 words: basic, common words that children learn at a very early age.

Tier 2 words: high frequency, yet more sophisticated words. Can be applied in many concepts. These are the words that we teach. Aim to teach 10-12 per week.

Tier 3: Provide a brief definition in context, and then move on. These are

Vocabulary activities to try in the classroom...

1. Four Squares: Use the attached organizer to complete this activity.

- \*Write the target word in the center of the four-square.

- \*Define the target word.

- \*Add examples and non-examples.

- \*State important attributes or characteristic of the target word.

2. Partner Chatter: After explicit instruction on new words ask students to partner up and "chatter" about the words. Monitor the conversation to make sure the words are being used correctly. Follow up with asking "Did you partner use the new word? Who can share a good example?"



## Fluency Instruction

Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they are speaking. Readers who have not yet developed fluency read slowly, word by word. Their oral reading is choppy and plodding.

"What a child takes home in head and heart far outweighs what a child takes home in hand."

"We can teach from our experience, but we cannot teach experience."  
~Sasha Azevedo

Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, they can focus their attention on what the text means. They can make connections among the ideas in the text and between the text and their background knowledge. In other words, fluent readers recognize words and comprehend at the same time. Less fluent readers, however, must focus their attention on figuring out the words, leaving them little attention for understanding the text.

[www.nifl.gov](http://www.nifl.gov)

### Houghton Mifflin Fluency Builders:

Your literacy coaches are currently developing fluency builders to go along with each Houghton Mifflin story based on the Wilson corrective reading program.

Each builder consists of three parts: (1) Individual words, (2) short phrases, and (3) whole text with scoops drawn under the phrases.

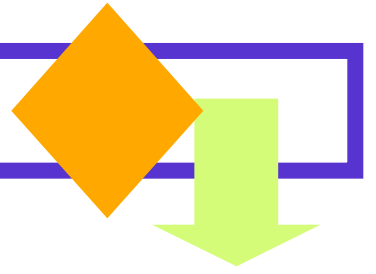
How to teach it:

- (1) Individual Words: Say all words orally with students and syllabicate the parts. Draw syllable lines on the board and show students how the word breaks orthographically (remember to check the dictionary). Show students how to "scoop" the parts.
- (2) Short Phrases: Read each phrase to the students and have them echo your prosody. Next, read each phrase with the students, chorally. Last, have the students read each phrase independently. Repeat with all phrases/groups of phrases.
- (3) Whole text: Read the passage to the students, showing them how to follow the "scoops" under the text. Then, practice reading the passage with the students. Finally, ask the students to read the passage on their own.

**\*\*TRY OUT THE ATTACHED EXAMPLES\*\***



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## Story Headline

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service.

You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, Business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a

company.

If you explore the Project Gallery, you will find many publications that match the style of your newsletter.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Your headline is an important part of the newsletter and should be considered carefully.

## Story Headline

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Word offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

The subject matter that appears in

newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

***"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."***



Your business  
tagline can go  
here

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

## Back Page Story Headline

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

## About Our Organization...

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your

newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.